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NINTH PLENUM SPEECH OF FRANCISZEK WACHOWICZ
ON AGRICULTURE IN SZCZECIN WOJEWODSTWO, POLAND

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[The following report of Franciszek Wachowicz, First Secretary of the Szczecin Wojewodstwo Committee of the PZPR, was given at the Ninth Plenum of the KC PZPR (Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party), held in Warsaw on 29-30 October 1953.]

The report was given at the plenum as an amplification of the featured report of Premier Boleslaw Bierut, "Task of Party in Struggle to Raise Standard of Living of Workers in Current Phase of Building Socialism." An English-language translation of Bierut's report is available in the PAP (Polish Press Agency) release of 6 November 1953, pages 1-44.]

Industry in Szczecin Wojewodstwo has been supplying the demands of the country to an increasing degree. The Szczecin shipyards, which until recently had been building only cutters and doing repairs, are now building large ocean-going vessels. Metallurgical production and production of superphosphates has greatly increased in the wojewodstwo. However, although the wojewodstwo party organizations had mobilized the masses for intensive work, they did not follow up persistently enough for the full utilization of our lands. Naturally, our party organizations are concentrating mainly on the villages. The Szczecin peasant has been improving his farm operations and has become more attached to his land. The campaigns carried out in the villages have increased the consciousness of the working peasants. Our party organizations have had some great successes. They have organized 656 producers cooperatives, 202 in 1953 alone, and strengthened state farm management. However, they have not achieved full exploitation of farm reserves. Lack of effort by our party organizations and agricultural services is responsible for the unsatisfactory results in increasing per hectare yields.

Obsolete methods of land cultivation still used by individual peasant farmers, and even producers cooperatives, is the main reason for unsatisfactory yields per hectare. The party has not shown enough interest, and the small and inexperienced staffs of agronomists and instructors have not been able to give the individual peasant farmer adequate aid. We have not stressed sufficiently the dissemination of agricultural science and knowledge in the villages to break down resistance and conservatism. We have not fully utilized the resources of the MTS to achieve increased agricultural production, especially in the producers cooperatives. Twenty-five percent of the MTS tractors lay idle because of a lack of service and repeated breakdowns.

The wojewodstwo party organization has set before all economic and political activists the task of raising per-hectare yields 2-3 quintals within the next 2 years. We must increase outlays for fertilizer and set up a maximum number of experimental areas, especially on state farms and producers cooperatives. We must also increase our efforts to train adequate cadres of agronomists.

It would be a mistake to think that inadequate yields have been caused solely by improper technical organization. People are the deciding factor in production and in over-all economy. The fault lies with our wojewodstwo party organization, which has not made an adequate effort to get the masses to

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participate in the struggle for increased agricultural production in the face of the furious attacks of the enemy. In our wojewodztwo, the enemy is especially persistent in spreading rumors of imminent war, etc.

Recent international and national events have had a great influence on the attitude of the peasant, his political activities, and production. The enemy has interpreted the Berlin incidents and certain steps taken by the party and the People's Democracies to suit himself. He is also trying to put his own interpretation on our efforts to raise the standard of living. There is still much to be done in unmasking hostile gossip and in instilling political consciousness into the masses of working peasants.

In many instances, our regional authorities and party organizations have not followed the party line in regard to the individual peasant farmers. In their preoccupation with the problem of increasing the number of producers cooperatives, the party echelons and organizations have often forgotten the needs of the individual peasant farmers. As a result, the individual peasant farmers in Pyrzyce, Mysliborz, and Gryfino powiats did not receive adequate allocations of fertilizer and farm machines for the spring sowing campaign. In many instances, they have had difficulty even in obtaining small but necessary articles such as plow shares, plows, rakes, pitchforks, etc. Obviously this state of affairs has not helped the individual peasant farms, and has not increased the individual farmers' confidence in the state. Some party echelons left the producers cooperatives to fend for themselves, assuming that the responsibility belonged to the MTS and its political divisions.

An equally important problem is that of increasing livestock production in our wojewodztwo. Meadows and pastures constitute 32 percent of our land area, which provides an adequate basis for the expansion of the raising of horses, cattle, and sheep. At present, there are 3.6 cows for each 100 hectares of individual peasant land. We would like a significant increase in the number of cows in the next 2 years. We should see that the increased stock comes from our own breeding; we must disseminate zootechnical science, and we must continue to develop livestock breeding. We must drain and restore the marginal lands damaged by war operations.

The large percentage of state farms and producers cooperatives in our wojewodztwo and the continued improvement in farm services are favorable factors in the fulfillment of our tasks. New fodder bases and necessary investments will enable us to develop livestock production.

The problem of manpower and population comes up in connection with proper farm management and increased yields per hectare. We have not given the peasant farmers adequate aid in establishing themselves and we have not solicited settlers from other wojewodztwos, leaving the matter entirely to the wojewodztwos which have been populating our area. There are great opportunities for new settlers on the state farms, on the individual peasant farms, and in forestry.

To achieve a better management of Szczecin lands, and to increase yields per hectare, we must improve our party organizations and increase their number. The fulfillment of compulsory deliveries and the completion of the spring sowing campaign proved that success was due to party work.

It has been shown by the Nowogard and Gryfice party organizations that satisfactory results can be achieved if powiat and gmina committees take good care of basic party organizations, if powiat committees work systematically with gmina committees, if open meetings are held to which shockworkers are invited, and if the peasantry is mobilized.

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Not all party organizations have been working well. There are still many white stains [localities without a basic party organization]. There are no basic organizations in 160 producers cooperatives. In many state farms and many villages we do not even have candidate groups.

With so many blanks on the political map of our wojewodztwo it is difficult to speak of proper, all-around, aggressive party work. It is more than just a question of the number of party organizations. In carrying out compulsory deliveries in 1953, the weakness of our lowest cells, the gmina committees, and the basic party organizations was clearly seen. Thus, the first task of the wojewodztwo and the powiat committees should be the development of party organizations and a continued and systematic interest in raising the political level of our activists, particularly the gmina activists.

For lack of assistance from the higher echelons, our gmina and village activists have not always understood that the purpose of the campaigns carried out in the villages is to strengthen our position with the working peasants and to raise their political consciousness. Thus the worker-peasant alliance, the alliance between city and village, will be strengthened. Today's plenum of the Central Committee will aid the Szczecin party organization to implement the guiding principles of the Central Committee.

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